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*Kent + Bill Rye
agreed to this version -
see p. 2*

E19

*Jim
→ Prep Book*

EAP PRESS GUIDANCE
December 11, 1989

CHINA: SCOWCROFT TRIP

RELEASED

Q: What is the Administration's rationale for the trip to Beijing by Scowcroft and Eagleburger? Where are they now? Did they discuss Fang Lizhi? Human rights?

A: AS SECRETARY BAKER EXPLAINED, THERE WERE SEVERAL PURPOSES FOR THE TRIP. ONE WAS TO PROVIDE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT A READOUT ON THE RESULTS OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GORBACHEV IN MALTA. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY PROVIDED THE CHINESE, ALONG WITH OTHERS, WITH SUCH BRIEFINGS AFTER HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH THE SOVIETS.

—ANOTHER PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND "KEEP CHINA FROM LAPSING INTO INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION." BY SENDING A HIGH-LEVEL EMISSARY, WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE CLEAR IN AN AUTHORITATIVE WAY THE DEPTHS OF OUR CONCERNS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE STEPS WE FEEL MUST BE TAKEN BY BOTH SIDES TO PERMIT IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS.

AS FOR THE FANG LIZHI CASE, THE SECRETARY SAID "I WOULD BE WILLING TO BET YOU THAT THAT CAME UP ONE WAY OR ANOTHER DURING THE DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE THIS IS A SOURCE OF IRRITATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THIS IS A MATTER THAT IS VERY SENSITIVE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT'S BEING WORKED ON AND WORKED ON VERY QUIETLY . . . AND WE'RE TRYING TO RESOLVE IT." I HAVE

NOTHING TO ADD TO THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS.

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Q: Can you comment on the press story that the primary purpose of this trip was to speak to the Chinese about their sale of M-9 missiles to Libya?

A: THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS AS I HAVE STATED: TO BRIEF THE CHINESE ON THE MALTA MEETING AND TO SEEK WAYS TO RESOLVE BILATERAL DIFFERENCES. IN THAT CONTEXT WE RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF CONCERN.

--MORE GENERALLY, WE HAVE BEEN SENSITIVE TO THE DANGERS OF MISSILE PROLIFERATION AND HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE FREQUENTLY AT HIGH LEVELS WITH THE CHINESE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. THE ISSUE HAS BEEN AND REMAINS HIGH ON OUR AGENDA WITH THE CHINESE.

--I WOULD NOTE TODAY'S OFFICIAL XINHUA NEWS AGENCY REPORT THAT A CHINESE SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY TERMED FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS THAT CHINA WILL SELL M-9 MISSILES "UTTERLY GROUNDLESS." ACCORDING TO XINHUA THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID "CHINA HAS ALL ALONG TAKEN A SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SALE OF MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES. EXCEPT ITS SALE OF A FEW MISSILES TO SAUDI ARABIA, CHINA HAS NOT SOLD AND HAS NO PLAN TO SELL ANY MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE TO ANY MIDDLE EAST COUNTRY."

--I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT IN DETAIL ON TOPICS RAISED DURING THE SCOWCROFT VISIT.

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